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25X1A
[REDACTED]

3 September 1959

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MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

ATTENTION : Chief, I/EE

SUBJECT : [REDACTED] Comments on CSM 33/59

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REFERENCE : CSM 33/59, 1 July 1959, Lagging Developing
of Consumer Electronics Production in the USSR

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1. The following comments have been received by this office
[REDACTED] on the referenced memorandum:

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[REDACTED] generally agree with this memorandum but would
like to make the following comments on points of detail.

1. The source of the footnote to page 1 showing a
possible lower target for 1965 was recently checked here because
of its discrepancy with previous statements and we found it refers
only to sales of sets to the population. The considerably lower
figures are interesting but there is evidence of a large "stock in
hand" of consumer electronic equipment at the end of a year.
Conversely, is the USSR aiming to become a major exporter?

2. It is felt that the Soviet statement (your source No.7)
on page 2 that 9.5 million radio receivers were in use as of May 1959
probably is misleading although [REDACTED] is not quite sure of the
exact interpretation. In the "National Economy of the USSR" the
number of radio receivers listed under "communications" for 1955
is given as 6.1 millions. The 9.5 millions in May 1959 would imply
that not only all the radio receivers in use prior to 1956 had been
retired but that a considerable proportion of the 1956 production
had suffered the same fate.

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We see no reason to believe that this did occur but
the theory that radio receivers shown as communications points refer
only to those held by other than private citizens of the USSR is
difficult to hold in view of the numbers of television receivers
also shown in this category.

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It is arguable that a large number of television receivers in the USSR are held by organizations, clubs, etc., and possibly by groups of individuals but the 1955 statistics for television receivers shown as communications points appears to embrace nearly all of the output of sets since 1950, less reasonable proportions for retirement and for stocks unsold at the end of 1955. Hence our difficulty in interpreting such statements as that above."

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2. Your return comments, if any, [REDACTED] would be appreciated.

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[REDACTED]

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